WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A water-based ink comprising an aqueous dispersion of fine polymer particles containing a colorant, and at least one polyalkylene oxide derivative selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by the following formulae:

$R^1O\text{-}(CH_2CH_2O)_a\text{-}H$ (I)

$H\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_b\text{-}O\text{-}R^2\text{-}O\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_c\text{-}H$ (II)

$R^3O\text{-}(CH_2CH_2O)_d\text{-}(CH_2CH(CH_3)O)_e\text{-}H$ (III)

$H\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_f\text{-}(OCH_2CH(CH_3))_g\text{-}O\text{-}R^4\text{-}O\text{-}(CH_2CH(CH_3)O)_h\text{-}(CH_2CH_2O)_i\text{-}H$ (IV)

wherein each of **a** and **d** is independently a number of 10 to 40; each of **b** and **c** is independently a number of 5 to 20; **e** is a number of 1 to 3; **f** is a number of 5 to 20; each of **g** and **h** is independently a number of 0 to 4, wherein **g** + **h** is a number satisfying 1 to 4; **i** is a number of 5 to 20; each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a monovalent aliphatic group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a monovalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a monovalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R^2 is a divalent aliphatic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R^4 is a divalent aliphatic group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; and the oxyethylene chain and the oxypropylene chain described in the formulae (III) and (IV) may be added in random or block forms.

2. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is an organic pigment or carbon black.

3. The water-based ink according to claim 1, which comprises a water-soluble organic solvent.

4. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the surface tension of the polyalkylene oxide derivative is at least 50 mN/m at 25°C.